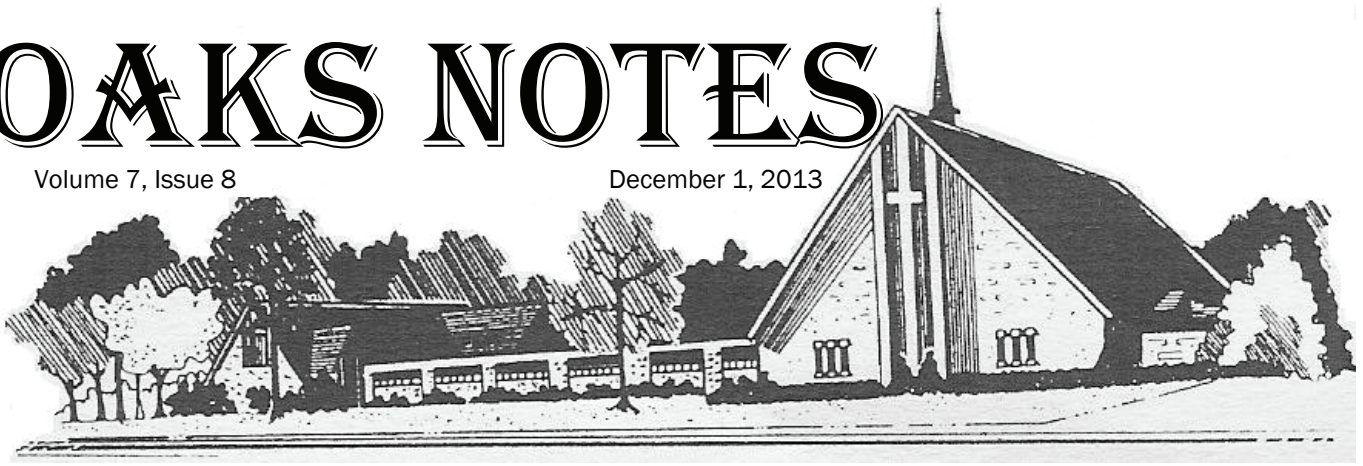


OAKS NOTES

Volume 7, Issue 8

December 1, 2013



Oaks Christian Church is a family church that loves to share God's word, God's Love, and God's fellowship with the world. We are a church in the near inner loop that strives to be a helpful part of the community. We are about Deep Christian spirituality, a true community and a passion for Justice. We celebrate communion every Sunday service and all who believe are welcome to receive.



Inside this issue:

Calendar: Learn about this month's events. 2

From the Treasurer 2

Letter to Church 3
From Board Chair

Gifts for Stevens 3
Sponsor a Student

Troop 879's 3
New Home

Family Festival 3
Christmas Celebration

We've Spotted You 4
Pictures from November



A Note from Pastor Don

This year, Christmas is all "new" for Linda and

me! We are in a new house, and we've been searching for weeks for a new tree... should it have more regular lights, or fewer but brighter LED lights? How tall should it be? And after much "discussion" we finally found one.

But that was not the end of it.

When we got the tree home, we had to decide where to put it. There were several possibilities. All of them involved reshuffling furniture – moving couches, love seats, and recliners.

And to be honest with you, I'm getting old. I was about ready to stick the tree in the kitchen and call it a day. At least there wasn't any furniture there that had to be moved!

But when it was all said and done, and the new tree was up, it looked great. I don't know if we'll put it there again, but wherever it goes, I'm

sure we'll be moving furniture again.

I believe advent is similar in some ways. It is a time when we should be preparing for something special: the coming of God's Son into this world.

But in case you haven't noticed, December comes every year, and we go through this and hear the same thing each time. (And for a few of us, that's getting to be a lot of Decembers.)

So what will it take for us to see things differently?

We may have to move some furniture around in our lives and look at things from a different angle. It takes effort and commitment, but we must see beyond the tinsel

and lights that surround us. We must even see beyond the services and events we have at church.

For no matter how good or bad they are, if our hearts are cluttered and full of other things, there will not be room for the One who came to save us.

We are always looking for ways to improve on Christmas and the truth is, we can't! The perfect gift of all time has already been given. All we can do is fully accept that gift – the gift of love that came in the form of a Child.

So let's take time to prepare a place for the One who came from Heaven. The light that He will bring is

brighter than we can put on any of our trees (even LED's). Let's just make sure there's a place in our hearts where He can shine. Even if we have to move a few things around.

See ya Sunday.

In His Grip,
Pastor Dona



December 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Sunday School @ 9:30 am; Worship, Hanging of the Greens @ 10:45 am;	2	3 CWF @ 10 am	4 Handbells @ 6 pm; Choir @ 7 pm	5	6 BSA Mtg. @ 6:30 pm Renovada Bible Study @ 7:30 pm	7
8 Sunday School @ 9:30 am; Worship @ 10:45 am; CWF Cookie Delivery	9	10 Prayer Circle @ 9:30 am; CWF @ 10 am	11 Handbells @ 6 pm; Choir @ 7 pm	12	13 BSA Mtg. @ 6:30 pm Renovada Bible Study @ 7:30 pm	14
15 Sunday School @ 9:30 am; Cantata @ 10:45 am; Family Festival @ 5-7 pm	16	17 CWF @ 10 am	18 Handbells @ 6 pm; Choir @ 7 pm	19	20 BSA Mtg. @ 6:30 pm Renovada Bible Study @ 7:30 pm	21
22 Sunday School @ 9:30 am; Worship @ 10:45 am; Renovada Xmas @ 12-6 pm	23	24 Christmas Eve Service @ 6:30 pm	25 Merry Christmas to you!	26	27 BSA Mtg. @ 6:30 pm Renovada Bible Study @ 7:30 pm	28 Community Lunch @ 12-2 pm
29 Sunday School @ 9:30 am ; Worship @ 10:45 am	30	31 Happy New Year...		Bible Study will resume in January. BSA = Boy Scouts of America		



Happy December Birthdays!

12/12 John David Yates
 12/13 Bethany Yates
 12/14 Pat Hodde
 12/16 Sue Harrison
 12/17 Lida Crump
 12/21 Susan Parker
 12/24 Imogene Flott
 12/29 Patti Swink
 12/31 Oliver Harrison



2014 Board Members

Chair: Jimmye Saldivar	Diaconates: Lester Baker,
Vice Chair: Katie Spencer	Janet Duplechain, Megan
Secretary: Don Whitley	Poling, Elizabeth Salazar
Treasurer: Dorene Drake	
Fin. Secretary: Julie Clawson	Jr. Deacon: Frank
Education: Janet Duplechain	Duplechain
Evangelism: Ruth Conover	
Facilities: Barb Scantlin	Endowment Funds Trustee:
Membership: Pat Scruggs	Don Whitley
Service: Pat Whitley	
Stewardship: Bob Simons	Elder Emeritus: Billie and
Worship: Larry Scruggs	Don Murray

LET US KNOW!

If there are events, meetings, or stories you would like to see in the January newsletter, please let us know! E-mail the church secretary, Holly Leger, at oakscchouston@aol.com.

Please send in all information before
Monday, December 16, 2013!

From the Treasurer - Dorene Drake

Operating Account 2013	2013 AUGUST	2013 SEPTEMBER	2013 OCTOBER
Deposits	\$8,352.50	\$10,873.00	\$8,664.53
Disbursements	\$10,897.03	\$9,879.22	\$10,876.10
Difference	(\$2,544.53)	\$993.78	(\$2,211.57)

Oaks Christian Church

Family Festival

Join us December 15th as we celebrate Christ's birthday!

@ 5:00 PM
Enjoy a light dinner in Kirchner Hall.

@ 6:00 PM
Make your own Christmas ornament.

@ 7:00 PM
Catch a glimpse of a live outdoor nativity

BibleClipart.net

Letter from Board Chair

It is with great sadness that I announce that at the end of the year, Michael Rasco will be leaving his long held position of Choir Director here at Oaks Christian Church. His last Sunday with us in this capacity will be December 29, 2013; and on that afternoon, we will hold a reception for him in appreciation for the past 12 years of his faithful service as Choir Director. Over the years we have come to know and love, both he and Lara, and while we wish them both well in their future endeavors, we also want them to always consider Oaks Christian Church as their church home and we, the congregation, as their church family.

Yours in Christ,
Sara Simons
Oaks Christian Church Board Chair

GIFTS FOR STEVENS Sponsor a Student for Christmas

When Christmas break is over, and students and teachers return to school in January, the halls are often filled with yawns and long faces.

But sometimes, Marcela Enriquez, a parents' engagement representative at Stevens Elementary, receives a small smiling student in her office who comes to say "thank you."

They are grateful for the community churches who put presents under their trees, through a program at the school called "Share Your Christmas."

Share Your Christmas helps provide needy families at the school with Christmas gifts for the holiday season.

Around October of every year, Enriquez assembles a list of families who qualify for the program based on financial needs.

And the list is not a short one, Enriquez said.

"Really and truly, our free and reduced lunch is like almost 90 percent," she said, "so we are a school that has a lot of families in need."

After the list is made, she takes it and calls the parents to ask if they are interested in participating.

Not every family says yes, but if they do, she asks them further information about their child or children, including their clothing and shoe sizes, and a toy they would like.

Once that information is gathered, she assigns a family or multiple families to participating churches in the area, so that church members can take those wish lists and purchase items for the children.

This year, Oaks Christian Church was assigned with four separate families, or ten children total. The names of the children will remain anonymous, but their genders and ages will be provided, along with their wish lists.

"I'm very, very thankful for everything that you do for us," Enriquez said.

For more information on how you can help, please contact Jimmie Saldivar at JSald30280@aol.com.

Troop 879's New Home

From now on, Oaks Christian Church will be full of cubs, wolves, bears, and eagles every Friday night.

Well, Boy Scouts, that is.

After months of searching for a new home, Houston Boy Scout Troop 879 finally found one. The boys were formerly meeting at Hope Episcopal Church. However, due to construction purposes, their meeting facility was no longer available.

A few months later, the troop found their new base at Oaks, and they are excited about the future.

During their first meeting at Oaks at the end of November, Bazar said the boys discussed plans for the upcoming year, including volunteer projects that could benefit the church's ministry.

"Our plan is to sit down with your church to do that," Bazar said, "and find out what kind of things they would like to see done. It feels like it's going to be mutually beneficial."

Troop 879 will meet Friday nights at 6:30.

Oaks Christian Church

Disciples of Christ

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WE SPOTTED YOU AT THE OAKS!

